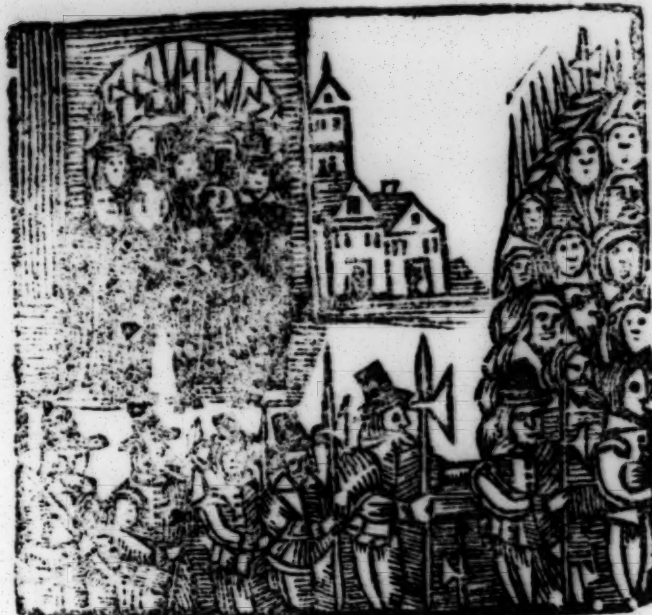


The SPEECHES of the Six Condemn'd Lords at their Tryals in Westminster-Hall: As also, the Last SPEECH James, Earl of Derwentwater, who was beheaded on Tower February 24. 1715-16.



ON Thursday, Feb. 9. 1715-6. the Lords came to Westminster-Hall, where the Articles of Impeachment were read, as also the Answers of the Earl of Derwentwater, Lord Widdrington, and the Earl of Nithsdale, with a Petition of the Lord Nairn. Hereupon being demanded whether they pleaded guilty, or not? They said, they did, and threw themselves at the King's Mercy. Upon which the Lord High-Steward demanding again of 'em feverently what they had to say for themselves why Sentence should not be pronounced against them according to Law, they made the following SPEECHES.

Earl of Derwentwater's SPEECH.

I Only humbly beg leave of My Noble Peers to return a few Circumstances mentioned in my Answer to the Articles of Impeachment exhibited against me by the Honourable House of Commons.

But the Terror of your Lordships' just Sentence, which at once deprive me of my Life and Estate, and complete the Misfortunes of my Wife and innocent Children, are so heavy upon my Mind, together with my Unexperience, that I am scarce able to allege what may extenuate my Offence, if any thing can do it. I have confessed myself Guilty; but, my Lords, that Guilt was rashly incurred without any Premeditation, as I beg leave to observe, I was wholly unprovided with Men, Horses, Arms, and other Necessaries, which in my Situation I could not have wanted, had I been privy to any formed Design: As my Offence was sudden, so my Submission was early: When His Majesty's Generals thought fit to demand Hostages for securing the Terms of the Cession, I voluntarily offered myself, without which the Cession might have proved ineffectual: And whilst I continued Hostage, the great Character of His Majesty's Clemency, and the repeated Encouragement I had to hope for Mercy by surrendering to it, soon determined me, and I accordingly declared my Resolution, to remain with His Majesty's Forces, and from that time submitted myself to His Goodness, on which I still entirely depend. I humbly hope to obtain the Mediation of Your Lordships, and of the Honourable House of Commons, in my Behalf; solemnly protesting my future Conduct shall show me me altogether unworthy your generous Compassion for my Life, which is all I can beg of His Majesty.

Lord Widdrington's SPEECH.

MY LORDS, I have abandon'd all manner of Defence, even since I first surrendered myself to His Majesty's Royal Clemency, and only now beg leave to repeat to Your Lordships some Circumstances of my unhappy Case, which I have already set forth in my Answer.

Your Lordships see before you an Unfortunate Man, who, after leading a private and retired Life for many Years, has by one rash and inconsiderate Action, exposed himself and his Family to the greatest Calamities and Misery, and is now upon the point of receiving the severest Sentence directed by any of our English Laws.

I do protest to your Lordships, that I was never privy to any concerted Measures against His Majesty's Royal Person, or the established Government: As to the Insurrection in Northumberland, I only heard of it accidentally the Night before it began, and being soon after informed, that all my Neighbours and Acquaintance had not in Arms, a crowd of confused and mistaken Rascals hurried me at once into a precipitate Resolution of joining them; a Resolution, which I must own, I could never since call to mind, without part of that Confusion I find myself now in: or public Acknowledgments of so much Rashness and Folly. After thus plunging me of my Depth, as unprepared for such an Enterprize

as the Action was unpremeditated, I cannot, for my own particular, upon the strictest Recollection, charge myself with any Violation of the Properties of my Fellow-Subjects: But, on the contrary, I always endeavoured to encourage Humanity and Moderation during the whole Course of our miserable Expedition; and in order to make the best Attonement in my Power for that great Fault I had been guilty of, I can justly say, that I was in no small Degree instrumental in procuring a general Submission to His Majesty. But, my Lords, however wrong or depraved, either I, or any others, might be, to put a speedy End to those unfortunate Troubles, and preserve us, the first and most powerful Law of Nature, would have renounced the Royal and natural Rights, had not the Officers, who commanded the Royal Forces, given us Hopes of Mercy, and assured us we submitted to a Prince of our own Religion, and in the World. These Hopes, and this Assurance, overcame all remaining scruples, and gave the finishing Stroke to a general Surrender, whereby the further Effusion of British Blood was prevented, and a perfect Tranquillity restored to these Parts of His Majesty's Dominions.

My Lords, As this my first Attempt was rash and unpremeditated, as I always used and promoted Moderation and Humanity towards my Fellow-Subjects, and as I did not obstinately persist in my Faults, but was the first who proposed an early Submission to His Majesty, I humbly hope my unhappy Case, and the deplorable Condition of my unfortunate Children, already deprived of their tender Mother, will raise a generous Compassion in Your Lordships, and the Honourable House of Commons; and I most earnestly entreat both Your Lordships, and that Honourable House, to become Intercessors with His Majesty in my Behalf, for that Mercy which I was encouraged to hope for when I first surrendered, and which I have with the utmost Confidence relied upon.

I have only to add my most solemn Assurance before this August Assembly, that no future Time shall ever find me wanting in the most inviolable Duty and Gratitude to that merciful Prince, who gives me my Life, and restores a Father to five miserable and distressed Orphans; and I shall always retain the highest Esteem and Veneration for Your Lordships, and the Honourable House of Commons.

Lord Nithsdale's SPEECH.

MY LORDS, I have confessed myself Guilty, relying only on His Majesty's Mercy: and I beg leave to assure Your Lordships I was never privy to any Plot or Design against His Majesty's Person or Government, and was unprovided with any Necessaries for such a Purpose; but rashly and inconsiderately with only four of my Servants, joined those who appeared in Arms in my Neighbourhood, and was one of the last who went into them.

At Preston, my Lords, His Majesty's Generals gave great Hopes and Encouragement to believe that surrendering to His Majesty's Mercy, was the ready way to obtain it, with the repeated Assurances that His Majesty was a Prince of the greatest Clemency.

Upon these Hopes and Assurances I submitted myself, and still entirely depend on His Majesty's Goodness, earnestly beseeching Your Lordships, and the Honourable House of Commons, to intercede with His Majesty in my Behalf.

And I solemnly promise Your Lordships I shall, during the Remainder of my Life, pay the utmost Duty and Gratitude to His Most Gracious Majesty, and the highest Veneration and Respect to Your Lordships, and the Honourable House of Commons.

Lord Carmichael's SPEECH.

MY LORDS, I shall not trouble this Great Assembly with a Repetition of what I said, when formerly before Your Lordships and His Majesty's Council.

I hope these Noble Lords entertain that favourable Opinion of my sincere Dealing, then, as to believe that want of Experience, and Knowledge of the Laws, was the great Inducement of engaging me in that fatal and unhappy Undertaking.

The only thing I can hope or wish for, is His Majesty's Mercy: He has the Character of a merciful Prince: Should it please Him to think me a proper Object for it, that I must confess myself a very unworthy one: As I can say, my Lords, is, that the Remainder of my Life shall be to praise His Majesty, and all the World, of my true Penitence and Gratitude.

My Lords, I am yet an unworthy Member of this Great Body, and the Peerage, now expecting Your Lordships' judgment as to Life or Death: Should it be for my Life, my Deceit and Carriage for the future will be just, as one of Your Lordships will be witness of having procured me Compassion: But if it be for Death, God's Will be done: To my last Hour I shall pray for the Best only, and Your Lordships' Resolution, having this Comfort in my present Distress, that Your Lordships are my Judges at this Tribunal: And yet a greater comfort have I, that I am soon to appear before a Greater, where I can't despair of finding Mercy and Forgiveness for all my Sins.

I beg God Almighty's Pardon for them: I have already asked His Majesty's, and I do it now: And I humbly beg leave, once more, and perhaps the last Occasion that ever I shall have, to desire that Your Grace, this Noble House, and the Honourable House of Commons of Great Britain, who are now here, would intercede with His Majesty for me.

I take my Leave of Your Lordships, and wish you all Happiness.

Lord Kenmare's SPEECH.

MY LORDS, I am truly sensible of my Crime, and want Words to express my Repentance. GOD knows, I never had any Personal Prejudice against His Majesty, nor was I ever accessory to any previous Design against him. I humbly beg my Noble Peers, and the Honourable House of Commons, to intercede with the King for Mercy to me, that I may live to show myself the dutifullest of his Subjects, and to be the Means to keep my Wife, and our small Children, from starving; the Thoughts of which, with my Crime, makes me the most unfortunate of all Gentlemen.

Lord Nairn's SPEECH.

I Am very sensible how unfit I am to plead my own Cause before Your Grace (my Lord High Steward) and this August Assembly; and therefore tho' I could say much to extenuate the Crime for which I stand impeached, yet I chuse rather to lay my whole Stress upon the King's Mercy, for which he is so renowned, and which I was put in Hopes of at the Time of my Surrender. In Consideration whereof, and in Compassion to an afflicted Wife and Twelve Children, I still hope, by the Mediation of your Grace, my Noble Lords, and the Honourable House of Commons, I may obtain it: solemnly protesting, that in Gratitude for so signal a Deliverance, I will, to the End of my Life, remain a dutiful and obedient Subject to His Most Gracious and Sacred Majesty King GEORGE.

But tho' these Lords used all the Means possible for the Preservation of their Lives, yet it was not thought convenient by his Majesty, nor the Wisdom of the Nation, to grant 'em Pardon: For on Friday the 24th of Feb. 1715-6. the Lords Derwentwater and Kenmare, were brought to the Scaffold on Tower-Hill, where the former Lord made the following Speech.

The SPEECH of JAMES, Earl of Derwentwater, beheaded on Tower-Hill, Feb. 24. 1716.

BEing in a few Minutes to appear before the Tribunal of God, where, tho' most unworthy, I hope to find Mercy, which I have not found from Man in Power. I have endeavoured to make my Peace with His Divine Majesty, by most humbly begging Pardon for the Sins of my Life, and I doubt not a merciful Forgiveness, through the Merits of the Passion and Death of my Saviour Jesus Christ, for which end I earnestly desire the Prayers of all good Christians.

After this I am to ask Pardon of those whom I might have scandalized by pleading guilty at my Tryal. Such as were permitted to come to me, told me, that having been undeniably in Arms, pleading Guilty was but the Consequence of having submitted to Mercy: And many Arguments were used, to prove there was nothing of Moment in so doing: Amongst others, the Universal Practice of signing Leases, whereof the Preambles run in the Name of the Person in Possession.

But I am sensible, that in this, I have made bold with my Loyalty, having never any other but King JAMES III. for my Rightful and Lawful Sovereign: Him I had an Inclination to serve from my Infancy, and was now'd thereto by a natural Love I had to his Person, knowing him to be capable of making his People happy: And tho' he had been of a different Religion from mine, I should have done for him all that lay in my Power, as my Ancestors have done for his Predecessors, being thereto bound by the Laws of God and Man.

Wherefore if in this Affair I have acted rashly, it ought not to affect the Innocent: I intended to wrong no Body, but to serve my King and Country; and that without Self-Interest, hoping by the Example I gave, to have induced others to their Duty; and God, who sees the Secrets of my Heart, knows I speak Truth. Some Means have been proposed to me for saving my Life, which I looked upon as inconsistent with Honour and Conscience; and therefore I rejected them; for with God's Assistance I shall prefer any Death, to the doing a base, unworthy Action. I only wish now, that the laying down my Life might contribute to the Service of my King and Country, and the Re-establishment of the Ancient and Fundamental Constitution of these Kingdoms, without which no lasting Peace, or true Happiness can attend them; then I should indeed part with my Life even with Pleasure: As it is, I can only pray that these Blessings may be bestowed upon my dear Country; and since I can do no more, I beseech God to accept of my Life as a small Sacrifice towards it.

I die a Roman Catholic: I am in perfect Charity with all the World, I thank God for it, even with those of the present Government, who are most instrumental in my Death. I freely forgive such as ungenerously reported false Things of me; and I hope to be forgiven the Trespasses of my Youth by the Father of infinite Mercy, into whose Hands I commend my Soul.

J. Derwentwater.

POSTSCRIPT.

IF that Prince, that now governs, had given me my Life, I should have thought my self obliged never more to have taken up Arms against him.

N. B. The Lord Kenmare was executed at the same time, but made no Speech.